



# THE NAVAJO NATION

JOE SHIRLEY JR.  
PRESIDENT

FRANK DAYISH JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT

June 26, 2006

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Third Quarterly Report  
Fiscal Year 2006  
(April, May & June 2006)

### I. Program Information

Director Name: Larry Chee, Fire Chief  
Telephone No.: (928) 871 - 6915  
Department: Department of Fire & Rescue Services

### II. Budget/Performance Information

#### a. Funding and Expenditures

#### BUDGET EXPENSE FOR FY06

Funding Source	No. of Personnel	No. of Vehicles	FY2006 Personnel	% Budget Used	FY2006 Operating	% Budget Used
General	12	17	\$310,538.98	65%	\$491,464.87	78%
External	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	12	17	\$310,538.98	65%	\$491,464.87	78%

#### b. Reserved

### III. Accomplishments

- a. Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program, grant number EMW-2005-FG-02690 in the amount of \$269,496 was awarded in 2005 for the purchase of fire hoses, fire nozzles, water and foam appliances and foam concentrate. The purpose of this grant was to replace all our outdated fire hoses and to improve our fire suppression capability through the utilization of foam. The end result is faster fire knock down, which will minimize property damage. The equipment was bidded out, all bids were reviewed with one being selected

- and a purchase requisition was submitted to purchasing. We have currently received 99% of the equipment with all 99% issued out.
- b. Equipment was not just issued out when there were received. All the equipment was inventoried and personnel from all the fire station, both career and volunteers, attended the three day new equipment training and assisted in the inventory process.
  - c. On March 20, 2006 the Letter of Acceptance (LOA) from the State of Arizona was approved by the IGR, and in June the LOA was signed by the President. This LOA is critical to the implementation of the DF&RS hazardous materials response team. With the LOA in place now, the DF&RS will finally receive its \$385,000 allocated for the purchase of hazardous materials equipment and a command vehicle. During this quarterly period a command vehicle, a cargo trailer and equipment were specified, quotes obtained and a budget completed. The packet to spend the \$385,000 is now at OMB.
  - d. Conducted budget transfers to create a new firefighter position in the Chinle District. The position is currently being advertised and we expect to hire another firefighter by the end of July 2006. An additional paid personnel at the Chinle District has been warranted for many years. An increase in the number of calls, poor response times, and the lack of volunteerism had prompted this action.
  - e. Our 2006 Homeland Security Grant was submitted. The DF&RS project is called the Communication Infrastructure and Interoperability Improvement Project. The goal of this project is to build a communication infrastructure for the DF&RS that will meet SAFECOM's Level 4 of radio interoperability. The total grant is in the amount of \$888,000 (rounded).
  - f. Engine 311 was taken into Albuquerque (Independent Fire) for repairs. Independent Fire is still currently working on it and has exhausted a purchase order in the amount of \$8,500.00. When Engine 311 is repaired, this unit will service as a "reliable" reserve apparatus to cover other out-of-service units and to serve for training.
  - g. A proposal was submitted to the Fire Science Academy in Reno, Nevada to train four (4) firefighters in Flammable-Liquid Firefighting Techniques, but only one was selected. This firefighter attended from June 19-22 and learned how to respond to terrorist incidents and flammable-liquids. There was no cost to the Department of Fire & Rescue Services.
  - h. To address the shortage of fire apparatus within the Navajo Nation Fire Departments, a vehicle acquisition proposal was created and presented to Fleet Management and the Controller's Office, who have committed to assist in improving the level of fire protection on the Navajo Nation.
  - i. To also address the volunteer firefighter shortage, a Volunteer Incentive Pay Plan was introduced to the Public Safety Committee and the President of the Navajo Nation, which was supported by the Executive Director for the Navajo Division of Public Safety. This plan outlines a training stipend and

response stipend to volunteers who respond and assist in emergency response, and for those who want to attend the recruit firefighter's academy.

#### **IV. Status of On-Going Activities**

- a. Homeland Security Grants
  - i. Close out report for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program, grant number EMW-2004-FG-16110 in the amount of \$246,240.00 was finally completed by OMB.
  - ii. Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program, grant number EMW-2005-FG-02690 in the amount of \$269,496 is almost ready to be closed out, however we still have a balance of \$77,000. Much of the remaining amount will be taken up by indirect cost, leaving us an estimated balance of around \$25,000. With this amount, more attack hoses and firefighting foam will be purchased.
  - iii. In March 2006, a grant (EMW-2006-FG-01978) in the amount of \$306,432.00 was submitted to the DHS Assistance to Firefighter's Act Grant for the acquisition of a pumper/tanker combination. We are still waiting for the results of this grant.
- b. Proposal was submitted to the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company for the acquisition of a Polaris Ranger. Upon contacting the company, we found that we are among the finalist to be selected for this ATV.
- c. We are continually increasing the purchase order to Independent Fire for the repair of Engine 311. Other fire trucks still need to go in for service and repairs and we will continually increase the purchase order as time goes on.
- d. The Volunteer Incentive Pay Plan is currently with legislative services. A sponsor is needed, and when that sponsor is acquired, it will be presented to the Public Safety Committee so it can be introduced at the next Council session.
- e. Vehicle Acquisition Proposal, according to Fleet Management, has already been allocated in the 2007 Navajo Nation Budget.

#### **V. Status of Action Plan (A, B & C Lists)**

- a. Homeland Security Grants
  - i. Still have a balance from the DHS Assistance to Firefighters Act grant. We are unable to draw down funding yet until FEMA accepts the close out report provided by OMB. When they accept the close-out report, we will draw down the full amount and purchase additional items with the remaining balance.
- b. Vehicles: We are still working with the business office under the Controller's Office (Mr. Ashley) to acquire seven (7) fire trucks through a lease to own program. DF&RS met with transportation, but will be unable to assist due to the cost of the truck, which will result in other departments/programs

- absorbing the cost. We are triaging the repairs on the fire trucks, addressing trucks that need major repairs to ensure service delivery in the districts. One fire truck is in Albuquerque for repairs. Once this complete, this truck will become a floating truck to send others to repairs. In addition, it will serve as the fire truck for the academy.
- c. Tuba City and Chinle Districts are the busiest Fire Stations in the DF&RS. Consequently, these stations are having a hard time getting volunteers to respond to emergency incidents, especially during the weekends and after hours. To address this major liability problem, the DF&RS has hired an additional firefighter for the Tuba City District and within the next month will be hiring another firefighter for the Chinle District. These firefighters will work 12-hour shifts (8 am to 8 pm). This new shift, as opposed to a standard 40-hour workweek on a Monday to Friday basis, will ensure a paid firefighter is available after 5 pm and during the weekends. The hiring of two additional firefighters in essence has allowed us to have seven (7) day coverage at these two stations, up to 8 pm at night.
  - d. Reserved

## **VI. Outstanding Program Issues**

- a. Vehicles: As previously indicated in other reports, each fire station has but only one fire truck. When that fire truck is out for service, there is no fire protection until that vehicle is placed back in service. The DF&RS needs to obtain additional fire truck to supplement its current fleet and to serve as a spare when the other truck goes in for service.

The newest fire trucks with the DF&RS are reaching their 15-year mark. Many of these trucks have problems with them due to their age and the terrain the Navajo Nation affords. Cost to maintain them is becoming burdensome on our department's budget.

One fire truck (E-311 a 1988 Chevy) is currently in the shop in Albuquerque, NM. Independent Fire is working on the truck and after major engine repairs (two valves and carburetor), found that the truck needed major brake service. All of the engine and brake work is complete, it passed its annual pump test and is now getting other minor, but critical repairs. The \$8,500.00 purchase order has already been eaten up.

- b. Fleet Management - Lack of attention from Fleet Management is still a prevailing issue. Our department is still not being treated as a priority. Fire trucks are not being repaired or serviced quickly enough. For example, Chinle's Rescue 5 (2004 Chevy 4 x 4 Crew Cab Dually) has been down since 12/20/2005 and is finally completed as of June 24, 2006.

- c. Reserved

**VII. Problems/Recommendations**

Many of the problems associated with the DF&RS stems from the following:

- a. *Volunteerism* – Over the years, the number of volunteer firefighters signing up has declined, this results in emergency calls not being responded to, or only one or two firefighters responding to an incident that requires six or more to be effective and safe. The reason for the decline is attributed to personal reasons, such as family, personal life and work. In essence, the current volunteers and general public reported that they just do not have time anymore, because they need to attend to family, through their presence and wage earnings. It is evident that we cannot hire more firefighters based on current budget constraints. It is however more cost efficient to help the current volunteers with endeavors to care for the family by offering them a stipend of some sort. The DF&RS needs to pay their volunteers on a per call basis, for both emergent and non-emergent runs.
- b. *Funds for Grants* – The old adage “it takes money to make money” is common in today’s grant process. Many grants now are asking organizations to help themselves through a matching fund process. The latest grant in which we applied for will require a \$38,000 matching funds (or 10%) for the acquisition of another fire truck. The DF&RS needs a budget supplemental to acquire grant funding for the purpose of addressing the fire truck and protection needs. We need help to help ourselves.
- c. *Limited Budget* – Many of our problems could be resolved with an adequate budget. An adequate budget can address personnel issues, funding for grants and repair and possible leasing of fire apparatus. We are well aware that a larger budget will not fix all our problems and address our all our needs, but it will fix our most oppressing problems that results in inadequate service delivery and comprises the safety of our members. For FY2006, our budget was \$714,483.43. Below is a breakdown of our budget.

<b>FY2006 Budget</b>	
Personnel Expenses	\$456,901.17
Travel (Vehicle Mileage/Rental)	\$98,852.00
Supplies (Office/Janitorial, etc.)	\$61,445.43
Lease/Rental	\$95.00
Communication/Utilities	\$12,500.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$22,000.00
Contractual Service (Training/Instructor Fees, etc.)	\$21,500.00
Special Transactions (Insurance Premiums/Professional Dues)	\$25,258.00

Matching Funds	\$14,786.63
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**VIII. Flow Chart (Most recent/updated chart attached)**

